

Serial No. 09/853,782

Docket No.: 1081.1118

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-5 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication setting management system for distributing communication characteristics setting to a plurality of communication entities, comprising:

setting template entry/edit means for entering or editing a setting template that collects contents to be set for the communication entities, with reference to information on a concrete method of setting the communication entities;

setting template storing means for storing ~~the each~~ setting template entered or edited by the setting template entry/edit means;

application rule entry/edit means for entering or editing application rules prescribing rules of which setting template is to be applied to a communication having ~~what kind of a specific~~ attribute;

application rule storing means for storing ~~the each~~ application rule ~~input entered~~ or edited by the application rule entry/edit means; and

retrieval and response function means for selecting ~~a corresponding an~~ application rule from the application rule storing means in accordance with ~~the an~~ attribute of a corresponding destination communication entity ~~to distribute the setting~~, reading from the setting template storing means a setting template having a setting template name specified by the selected application rule, and distributing the read setting template to the corresponding destination communication entity.

2. (ORIGINAL) The communication setting management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

setting template collective entering means for collectively entering a group of previously defined setting templates into the setting template storing means.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The communication setting management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

including a plurality of management domains each having at least one

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communication entity, the management domains existing communicating via a network, ~~wherein and:~~

a communication setting management apparatus ~~is disposed~~ in each of the plurality of management domains, ~~and the communication setting management apparatus, disposed in a corresponding management domain, imparts imparting,~~ on a management domain basis, a different communication characteristics settings to respective communications between communication entities belonging to different management domains, ~~the each communication characteristics setting~~ being managed on a corresponding management domain basis.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication setting management system according to claim 3, wherein the communication setting management apparatus includes:

setting template entry/edit means for entering or editing a setting template that collects contents to be set for the communication entities, with reference to information on a concrete method of setting the communication entities;

setting template storing means for storing the setting template entered or edited by the setting template entry/edit means;

application rule entry/edit means for entering or editing application rules prescribing ~~rules~~ of which setting template is to be applied to a communication having what kind of attribute; application rule storing means for storing the application rule entered or edited by the application rule ~~40~~-entry/edit means; and

retrieval and response function means for selecting a corresponding application rule from the application rule storing means in accordance with the attribute of a destination communication entity ~~to distribute the setting,~~ reading a setting template having a setting template name specified by the application rule, from the setting template storing means, and distributing the read setting template to the communication entity.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication setting management system according to claim 4, further comprising:

a contradiction detection function unit for mutually interchanging information with between a communication setting management apparatus apparatuses disposed in respective, different the other management domain domains, and detecting a contradiction between the information and the setting template and the application rule of its own management domain.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication setting management system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a contradiction modification function unit for modifying a contradiction, at the time

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when ~~a~~the contradiction is detected, that a setting template or setting templates specified by the contradiction detection function unit according to the application rule to be the same, instead, are not-coincident with each other.